Brentwood Buddies
Helping Heart Scenes

Five books. Thirteen short scenes.

Original explanatory narration and animation directions based on Julie Barnett’s story manuscripts. These are new retellings, not verbatim extracts or finished movie edits.

Record the narration in three separate takes per scene, or record a continuous session and name the scene and part before each take. Leave two seconds of silence between takes. The stage directions and child prompts do not need to be read unless marked as narration.

Books reviewed

Bird Babble

Strong wings, clever knots; Only tiny Zee can fit

The Tail of Fabulous Fannie

Fannie takes a brave step; Friends encourage Fannie; Be your own unique self; An apology begins a repair

Who Needs a Hanky?

Hanky frees the bugs; Hanky believes he can learn

Cali and Pudge’s Christmas Adventure

Help the rest; Side by side

Cali and Pudge Pet Detectives

Facts before guesses; Understand the feeling, repair the action; We will listen

Production status

Interactive website previews use the updated character cutouts and simple movement. They are prototypes for the storytelling and child participation. Finished cinematic video, character acting, and lip sync still need to be produced from approved recordings.

01. Strong wings, clever knots

Bird Babble

SEL: Teamwork and cooperation

Story evidence: Eagle anchors the tree; Crow ties the rope during the storm.

PART 1 - NARRATOR

The storm shakes the Great Oak. Ronny and Cory have disagreed, but now their neighbors need help.

ANIMATION: Ronny and Cory face each other, then turn toward the Great Oak. Introduce the problem before the helpers act.

PART 2 - NARRATOR

Ronny steadies the tree. Cory secures the rope. Each Buddy takes a different job.

ANIMATION: Ronny lowers into a braced position; Cory moves toward the repair marker. Show the separate jobs clearly.

PART 3 - NARRATOR

That is cooperation: different strengths working toward the same goal. The Great Oak needs all its helpers.

ANIMATION: Both helpers hold their positions; reveal the shared helping-heart symbol.

CHILD PARTICIPATION

Give each helper a job. Who could steady something while you build or repair it?

02. Only tiny Zee can fit

Bird Babble

SEL: Acceptance, celebrating differences and teamwork

Story evidence: The barricade starts falling apart; only Zee can fill the tiny space and keep it in place.

PART 1 - NARRATOR

The barricade is coming apart. There is a tiny space the bigger birds cannot fill.

ANIMATION: Show an open gap marker. Ronny and Cory stop beside it; Zee remains visibly smaller.

PART 2 - NARRATOR

Zee is the smallest Buddy. His size lets him fit the space and help keep the barricade in place.

ANIMATION: Child taps the gap. Zee flies directly into the marker; the marker changes to secured.

PART 3 - NARRATOR

Zee's small size is crucial to this rescue. Differences make the team stronger. Every Buddy belongs and has something positive to contribute.

ANIMATION: The larger helpers move back to give Zee the spotlight. Celebrate the team without making Zee oversized.

CHILD PARTICIPATION

Help Zee reach the tiny space. What is one strength you can bring to a team?

03. Fannie takes a brave step

The Tail of Fabulous Fannie

SEL: Confidence and perseverance

Story evidence: Fannie practices, suffers a performance mishap, receives encouragement, and continues dancing without her false tail.

PART 1 - NARRATOR

Fannie feels nervous, and her performance does not go as planned. She can feel upset and still try again.

ANIMATION: Fannie holds a small centered pose. Friends wait beside her, leaving her face and body clear.

PART 2 - NARRATOR

Fonzie and Zee encourage her. Fannie takes a brave step and keeps dancing as herself.

ANIMATION: Child invites a brave step. Fannie moves to center and turns in a gentle dance arc; friends stay to the sides.

PART 3 - NARRATOR

This is perseverance. Confidence grows through practice, encouragement, and trying again. Fannie does not have to look like another bird to shine.

ANIMATION: Fannie finishes balanced and proud; friends celebrate without overlapping her.

CHILD PARTICIPATION

Encourage Fannie's next step. What is one small, brave step you could try?

04. Friends encourage Fannie

The Tail of Fabulous Fannie

SEL: Kindness and positive mindset

Story evidence: Fonzie and Zee notice Fannie's dancing and encourage her unique talent; encouragement also follows the stage mishap.

PART 1 - NARRATOR

Fannie has a talent, but she feels unsure about sharing it.

ANIMATION: Keep Fannie near the center; Fonzie and Zee approach from opposite sides in sequence.

PART 2 - NARRATOR

Her friends notice what she does well and encourage her to be herself.

ANIMATION: Child sends encouragement. One friend leans toward Fannie, then the other; Fannie lifts her posture.

PART 3 - NARRATOR

That is kindness. Fonzie and Zee bring encouragement and a positive mindset to their friends. Helpful words can make a hard moment feel less lonely.

ANIMATION: Fannie takes one forward step while friends make space.

CHILD PARTICIPATION

Send Fannie encouragement. What kind words could you say to someone who feels nervous?

05. Be your own unique self

The Tail of Fabulous Fannie

SEL: Celebrating differences, tolerance and acceptance

Story evidence: After the other birds copy her appearance, Fannie explains that each bird is unique; the birds begin appreciating their own strengths and diversity.

PART 1 - NARRATOR

At first, other birds tease Fannie because she looks different. Teasing hurts. She deserves kindness before she ever wins a prize.

ANIMATION: Keep the teasing offscreen. Fannie pauses; helpers approach gently. Avoid replaying insulting words.

PART 2 - NARRATOR

In the end, the birds accept and admire her. Fannie reminds them that they do not need to copy her to matter.

ANIMATION: Child invites each Buddy into the group. They remain different sizes, colors, and poses.

PART 3 - NARRATOR

Acceptance means respecting people as they are. Celebrating differences means noticing the positive things each person brings.

ANIMATION: Each character receives their own space and a turn in the spotlight.

CHILD PARTICIPATION

Make room for every Buddy. Name one difference you appreciate in a friend.

06. Hanky frees the bugs

Who Needs a Hanky?

SEL: Empathy and kindness returned

Story evidence: Hanky sees the trapped bugs, feels sad for them, frees them, and is thanked when they return.

PART 1 - NARRATOR

Hanky works hard to make a grand web. Then he notices the bugs caught inside.

ANIMATION: Hanky arrives beside a web activity marker. Bugs remain trapped near its center.

PART 2 - NARRATOR

He thinks about how the bugs feel and chooses to set them free.

ANIMATION: Child taps release. Bugs fly away one at a time; Hanky makes space instead of chasing them.

PART 3 - NARRATOR

That is empathy: understanding someone else's feelings. The grateful bugs return, and Hanky's kindness is returned to him.

ANIMATION: Bugs return in a friendly circle beside Hanky. Keep the explanation focused on giving and gratitude, not a promised reward.

CHILD PARTICIPATION

Help Hanky free the bugs. How do the bugs feel before and after Hanky helps?

07. Hanky believes he can learn

Who Needs a Hanky?

SEL: Confidence, perseverance and positive mindset

Story evidence: Hanky feels unwanted, struggles with his own web, encourages himself, and creates his masterpiece.

PART 1 - NARRATOR

Hanky feels unsure. Making his own web is harder than he expected, and he wants to go home.

ANIMATION: Hanky pauses near an unfinished web activity marker.

PART 2 - NARRATOR

He encourages himself and keeps weaving, one little step at a time.

ANIMATION: Child helps with the next thread. Reveal progress in stages rather than making the finished web appear instantly.

PART 3 - NARRATOR

This is perseverance and a positive mindset. Hanky believes he can learn, and his effort helps him make his masterpiece.

ANIMATION: Complete the activity marker and let Hanky settle proudly beside it.

CHILD PARTICIPATION

Help with one more thread. What could you tell yourself when something feels tricky?

08. An apology begins a repair

The Tail of Fabulous Fannie

SEL: Conflict resolution and empathy

Story evidence: A bird apologizes for teasing Fannie and expresses admiration for her courage.

PART 1 - NARRATOR

Someone has hurt Fannie's feelings by teasing her. A repair begins by recognizing the hurt.

ANIMATION: Fannie waits apart from the group. Do not assign the teasing or apology to Fonzie or Zee; they are supportive witnesses.

PART 2 - NARRATOR

In the story, a bird apologizes to Fannie. Saying sorry matters, and so does treating her differently afterward.

ANIMATION: Show narrator-led apology text, without misidentifying the unnamed apologizing bird. Friends remain supportive.

PART 3 - NARRATOR

That is repairing a conflict. We can listen, say sorry, and choose kinder actions. Fannie gets to have her own feelings about what happened.

ANIMATION: Child chooses a kinder next action. Fannie joins the group at her own pace.

CHILD PARTICIPATION

Choose a kinder next step. What kind action could follow an apology?

09. Help the rest

Cali and Pudge’s Christmas Adventure

SEL: Kindness, empathy and teamwork

Story evidence: Manuscript spreads 14-20: pets are scared; Cali opens the latch; Pudge insists they help the others.

PART 1 - NARRATOR

Cali and Pudge are trapped, and the other pets look scared too. They notice someone else needs help.

ANIMATION: Keep the frightening shop owner offscreen. Show Cali and Pudge close together beside a simple lock activity marker.

PART 2 - NARRATOR

Cali opens the latch with her claw. Once they are out, Pudge wants to help the rest of the pets.

ANIMATION: Child taps the help marker. Cali moves to the latch, then Pudge moves toward the others.

PART 3 - NARRATOR

That is empathy, kindness, and teamwork. They use their strengths to help others, not just themselves. In real life, children should get a trusted grown-up when someone needs help.

ANIMATION: Reveal a helping-heart marker; let the heroes settle safely together.

CHILD PARTICIPATION

Help the pals work together. Who could you ask to help someone who feels scared?

10. Side by side

Cali and Pudge’s Christmas Adventure

SEL: Empathy, reassurance, belonging and growing confidence

Story evidence: Manuscript spreads 25-38: Pudge is afraid; Cali stays close; gentle care and a loving home help them feel safe and brave.

PART 1 - NARRATOR

Pudge is frightened about what will happen next. Cali stays close so he knows he is not alone.

ANIMATION: Pudge begins low beside Cali. No chase, scary hands, or abrupt handling.

PART 2 - NARRATOR

The policeman treats them gently. Later, the boy welcomes both of them into a home where they feel loved.

ANIMATION: Child brings the friends together; they move gently side by side.

PART 3 - NARRATOR

We are seeing reassurance, care, and belonging. Feeling loved can help confidence grow. A friend can stay with us while we ask a trusted grown-up for help.

ANIMATION: Settle both comfortably near the center, with warm light and a shared heart.

CHILD PARTICIPATION

Bring the friends side by side. What helps you feel safe when you are worried?

11. Facts before guesses

Cali and Pudge Pet Detectives

SEL: Fairness, tolerance, empathy and thoughtful problem solving

Story evidence: Available book pages 13-17 and 23-28: neighbors suspect Crow and Dove; Cali checks evidence rather than accusing based on interests.

PART 1 - NARRATOR

Some Buddies guess that Crow or Dove took the missing things because of what they like. A guess is not proof.

ANIMATION: Cory is a subject of a guess, not a thief. Keep the clue marker neutral.

PART 2 - NARRATOR

Cali asks where the things were last seen. She and Pudge look closely and check the clues before blaming anyone.

ANIMATION: Child selects look closer; Cali and Pudge move toward the evidence marker.

PART 3 - NARRATOR

We are seeing fairness and respectful problem solving. Someone’s interests do not make them guilty. Listen, look for facts, and let each person explain.

ANIMATION: Remove the question marker from Cory and reveal a facts-first label.

CHILD PARTICIPATION

Look closely before guessing. What could you ask before deciding someone did something wrong?

12. Understand the feeling, repair the action

Cali and Pudge Pet Detectives

SEL: Empathy, accountability, acceptance and conflict resolution

Story evidence: Available book pages 33-38: Zee admits taking things because he wanted his friends; Fonzie says it still hurts; friends affirm Zee matters and agree to communicate.

PART 1 - NARRATOR

Zee admits he took the missing things because he wanted his friends to notice him. His lonely feeling matters, and taking their things still hurt them.

ANIMATION: Zee begins apart with lowered posture. Keep the missing belongings out of a celebratory reveal.

PART 2 - NARRATOR

Fonzie says he is hurt. Hanky explains the blanket was for Zee, and Fannie helps Zee understand that he already matters.

ANIMATION: Fonzie stays visible while Fannie approaches Zee. Do not erase Fonzie’s hurt with a quick celebration.

PART 3 - NARRATOR

That is empathy with accountability. We can understand a feeling and still repair an unkind action. Belonging does not require taking things. Talking and listening help the friends move forward.

ANIMATION: Child chooses talk and listen. Make room for Zee while respecting all the friends’ feelings.

CHILD PARTICIPATION

Make space to talk and listen. What could Zee say next time he feels left out?

13. We will listen

Cali and Pudge Pet Detectives

SEL: Teamwork, kindness, communication and positive mindset

Story evidence: Available book pages 38-39: Zee says he will talk next time; Pudge promises listening; Cali calls that teamwork.

PART 1 - NARRATOR

The friends have learned that Zee felt left out. They need a better way to share feelings.

ANIMATION: Keep Zee separate at first. Cali and Pudge turn toward him.

PART 2 - NARRATOR

Zee agrees to talk next time. Pudge promises they will listen, and Cali recognizes that as teamwork.

ANIMATION: Child gives Zee a speaking turn. He moves closer; Cali and Pudge wait.

PART 3 - NARRATOR

Kindness includes making time to listen. A positive next step is to ask for company, explain your feelings, and give another person a turn to speak.

ANIMATION: End with the three sharing space without overlapping or interrupting.

CHILD PARTICIPATION

Give Zee a turn to speak. Try saying: I feel left out. May I join you?

More with each Buddy - voiceovers

Read these short activity choices as narrator takes. They appear at the bottom of each Buddy page so children can hear where the links lead.

Pudge

pudge-01: Pudding Maze. Help Pudge find the pudding pinecones in his maze.

pudge-02: Cali and Pudge stories. Read Cali and Pudge's adventures and talk about the clues together.

pudge-03: Helping Heart Moments. See how Pudge helps others and listens to his friends.

Hanky

hanky-01: Lowercase letters. Write lowercase letters with Hanky.

hanky-02: Uppercase letters. Write uppercase letters with Hanky.

hanky-03: Number writing. Practice writing numbers with Hanky.

hanky-04: Who Needs a Hanky?. Watch Hanky's story about believing in himself and choosing kindness.

hanky-05: Hanky's Helping Heart. Help Hanky keep trying and understand how the bugs feel.

Fonzie

fonzie-01: Song Stage. Make music with Fonzie on the Song Stage.

fonzie-02: Watch and sing. Choose a Brentwood song or cartoon to enjoy together.

fonzie-03: Kind words for Fannie. See how Fonzie and Zee encourage their friend Fannie.

Fannie

fannie-01: Fannie's story. Watch The Tail of Fabulous Fannie and see her find her confidence.

fannie-02: Fannie's Helping Heart. Take a brave step with Fannie and celebrate what makes each Buddy unique.

fannie-03: Hokey Pokey. Try a dance with the Hokey Pokey sing-along.

Zee

zee-01: Giggle Factory. Tell a joke and enjoy a giggle with Zee.

zee-02: Zee's crucial rescue. Help tiny Zee fill the space only he can fit to help save the Great Oak.

zee-03: Rockin' Robin. Join the birds for Rockin' Robin.

Cali

cali-01: Story clues. Read with Cali and look closely at the story clues.

cali-02: Heart Words. Practice reading Heart Words with Cali.

cali-03: Facts before guesses. Help Cali and Pudge check facts before blaming anyone.

Mayor Owl

mayor-01: Parent activities. Find story questions and printable activities to enjoy with your grown-up.

mayor-02: Help the Buddies. Help the Brentwood Buddies work together on a wobbly day.

mayor-03: Bird Babble. Watch the birds work together to save their Great Oak community.

Cory Crow

cory-01: Welcome Wagon Workshop. Draw, color, and build your Welcome Wagon picture with Cory.

cory-02: Inventor Nest. Help Cory build and test an invention.

cory-03: Cooperation at the Great Oak. See how Cory and Ronny use different strengths to help their friends.

Regal Ronny Eagle

ronny-01: Helping Heart Moments. Practice teamwork, kindness, confidence, and listening with Ronny and the Buddies.

ronny-02: Story Lift. Help Ronny put the parts of a story in order.

ronny-03: Bird Babble. Watch Ronny, Cory, and tiny Zee each do their important part to save the Great Oak.

Hanky: Itsy Bitsy Spider

Four purposeful song actions

1. CLIMB: Hanky climbs upward, moving all eight legs in a coordinated way. Keep his body visible and his face expressive.

2. RAIN: The rain interrupts his climb and washes him down gently. Avoid a frightening fall or an injury.

3. SUN: The rain stops, the sun warms the scene, and Hanky pauses to regroup.

4. TRY AGAIN: Hanky climbs again with renewed determination. End with him safely settled and proud.

SEL connection

Optional narrator outro: Hanky tried again after a hard moment. That is perseverance! What is one little thing you could try again today?

Audio and references

Use the existing approved song recording if you want to keep its voice and music. The exact YouTube Short link and audio still need to be supplied or resolved before matching timing. Do not invent a song link or generate replacement vocals. Use the approved blue Hanky reference: eight legs, the same eyes, fur texture, color, and proportions. No pencil needed for the climbing scene.

First production test

Start with one action segment using the settings that already worked for the character videos. Match movement to the supplied recording. Review identity, eight-leg anatomy, full-body framing, and timing before making the remaining segments.

Character and film directions

Keep the new Brentwood Buddy look

Use the approved character references already used on the website. Preserve face, colors, texture, proportions, and species. Fannie must have no tail feathers: her story depends on that difference. Zee stays visibly smaller than the other birds. Hanky has eight legs. Birds have exactly two wings. Use one copy of each character; no overlapping doubles.

Make the movement tell the story

Show the problem first. Let helpers enter in sequence. Use eye lines, gestures, purposeful movement, and a clear result. Leave dialogue in its own space. Keep full bodies and crests inside the frame. Avoid endless floating, flashing, or exaggerated falls. Pause for the child’s choice before showing the helpful result.

Reusable video prompt

Animate the attached approved Brentwood Buddy reference image in the same warm, polished 3D style. Perform only the action described for this scene part. Use the attached approved voiceover exactly once, preserving its wording, timing, and voice. Do not add dialogue or repeat phrases. If the narrator is speaking, the characters respond with expressions and action rather than pretending to say the narration. Keep identities and anatomy consistent. Keep all characters inside the safe frame. No extra limbs, no third wings, no duplicate characters. No text baked into the video. Match the final pose to the next scene part for a clean edit.

Audio and recording

These new lines currently use a narrator preview on the website. Your original recordings remain in place. Use your own recorded Fannie voice when she has direct dialogue. Record narration first; then animate to that audio. This packet does not authorize paid generations or require more Descript credits.

Source notes

Bird Babble-SB Final Draft; The Tail of Fabulous Fannie 12 Final Draft.edited; Who Needs a Hanky_; Finished Cali and Pudge’s Christmas Adventure 4_18; available Pet Detectives book pages 11-43. Exact film timestamps are not inferred from these manuscripts. The Pet Detectives PDFs contain duplicate extracted text and draft labels; examples use the readable story passages. Confirm against the final published books before final film release.